

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 19, 2015
8:30 A.M.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 76

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 76 that requests the auditor to conduct a financial and management audit of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC). The Department provides comments.

The Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture currently serves as one of the Co-Chairs of the HISC and has been able to witness the collaboration and good work on invasive species that is being facilitated by the HISC. As one of the groups that is working to fight invasive species in Hawaii the HISC faces a daunting task, but one they attack with passion and enthusiasm. The numerous projects that have been funded as a result of monies allocated to the HISC have been vital in helping to mitigate and control existing invasive species in Hawaii.

The Department would defer to the HISC as to the need for an audit.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Thursday, March 19, 2015
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 312**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 76
REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT
AUDIT OF THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL**

House Concurrent Resolution 76 would request an audit of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) by the State Auditor, specifically examining the funding strategy used to support interagency invasive species projects and research. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments and concerns.**

House Concurrent Resolution 76 requests an audit of the funding strategy used by the HISC and specifically requests the Auditor's recommendation as to whether the HISC should be funding many projects or only a select few. The Department notes that technical knowledge of invasive species projects and priorities is needed to effectively conduct this evaluation. The Department suggests that an audit may not achieve the goal of this resolution to ensure effective invasive species funding strategy, and notes that such a process will likely be time consuming and will divert resources away from administering invasive species projects.

The Department is the administrative host of the six-member, interagency HISC, which is co-chaired by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and includes the directors or designees of the Department of Transportation, Department of Health, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the University of Hawaii. The Department recognizes the importance of mitigating the impacts of invasive species, which the legislature has referred to several times as "the single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, environment, and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people" (Act 102, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014).

The Department notes that the Legislature created the HISC in 2003 and has utilized the HISC as a multi-agency mechanism to fund innovative invasive species projects that fill gaps between

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

agency mandates and expand beyond existing programs through the development of pilot programs and new research initiatives.

As an interagency board, the HISC has successfully passed 16 resolutions coordinating the State's position on invasive species issues, produced a Governor's Package on biosecurity that was sent to heads of federal agencies and Hawaii's congressional delegates, and has provided a total of 247 grants, amounting to \$32.7M, between Fiscal Year 2005 and 2015. These grants have supported critical and groundbreaking projects in Hawaii that have protected our environment, economy, agriculture, and way of life, including:

- The Invasive Species Committees
- The Hawaii Ant Lab
- The Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment
- Biocontrol research on *Miconia calvescens*, strawberry guava, albizia, fireweed, and others
- Development of an online public reporting tool at reportapest.org
- Development of a statewide pest hotline at 643-PEST
- Response to Little Fire Ant statewide
- Response to Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle on O'ahu
- Development of a canine detection program for Little Fire Ant
- Development of an albizia control strategy on Hawaii Island
- Detection and control of the only mongoose ever confirmed on Kaua'i
- Detection and control of the only axis deer ever confirmed on Hawaii Island

The HISC has supported these efforts and achieved its other mandates per Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 194 with six HISC members under three administrations, with less than one FTE of a single civil servant staff member and with highly fluctuating investments from the legislature. A 2002 Legislative Reference Bureau study estimated the statewide annual need for invasive species projects at \$50,000,000. In Fiscal Year 2005, then Governor Lingle stated that her goal for the HISC was an annual budget of \$5,000,000. Actual appropriations in general funds from the legislature averaged \$1,230,000 annually from Fiscal Year 2005-2014, with a total appropriation of \$0 in Fiscal Years 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013. In Fiscal Year 2015 the legislature made the substantial investment of \$5,750,000, which is currently supporting 42 projects across the State.

The process for determining project funding is exceedingly thorough and open to public and legislative involvement. For a given fiscal year, the HISC releases a call for proposals, highlighting priority projects areas and providing a quantitative scoring rubric that is used to analyze submitted proposals. An interagency review panel consisting of staff from each HISC agency scores and reviews proposals at public meetings, creating a recommended budget for Council review. At a public HISC meeting, the HISC reviews the budget and has the option to reject, amend, or approve.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 2:11 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR76 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

HCR76

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

LATE

The House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
March 19, 2015
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 414
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of the Intent of HR 76

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports the intent of HR 76**, which requests the Auditor to conduct a financial and management audit of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC).

As a frequent attendee of HISC meetings and a participant in several of the HISC working groups since 2003, I can say with all confidence that the HISC constantly strives to meet the intent of HRS 194. In particular, HISC's strategy to discuss and prioritize funding for a variety of projects that are top priorities for agencies and counties is reflective of the HISC's authorizing legislation, Chapter 194-2 (4), "After consulting with appropriate state agencies, create and implement a plan that includes the **prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and education of the public** with respect to invasive species..."

There is a reoccurring question that many of us have been asked, whether it is better to fund prevention or control work. When discussing invasive species in Hawai'i, this question just doesn't make much sense because Hawai'i already has so many invasive species that are actively causing harm, and the only way to decrease the amount of harm is to control pest numbers. Yet it makes no sense to put all the funds into controlling pest numbers since there are still gaps in our prevention systems. If we were the Centers for Disease Control talking about health, should you put your dollar into Ebola or bird flu prevention, or should you put your dollar into work on heart disease or cancer? Obviously we cannot choose either, there must be funding for both. Likewise we could place all or most of the funds into prevention (as was done in 2009), or into the eradication of LFA from Maui (as an example). However, the reality is that the other pests do not just go away or cause less damage, they multiply along with the economic or environmental costs.

Therefore, CGAPS believes that the best way to prioritize the use of funds is through regular and active engagement and priority-setting with the resource managers, researchers, outreach specialists, agriculture professionals, and the agencies that are charged with protecting the public, environment, economy from the impacts of invasive species.

As a recipient of HISC outreach funds in 2014 and 2015, I can say that the funds are allowing CGAPS to help the responses to coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ants, particularly as these responses lack public outreach staff to visit schools, produce educational materials, and informational pieces. I think an audit might provide a deeper look at how HISC funds strengthen the abilities and reach of agencies and departments, and help to fill gaps statewide.

With this in mind, a review from the auditor's office would be an opportunity to share the work of the HISC and its many participants. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin, CGAPS

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 2:21 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: theatacamakid@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR76 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

LATE

HCR76

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Duffy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This is really designed to do two things: a financial audit and a programatic review. The State Auditor is of course the logical entity for the financial audit, but determining the most effective use of funds against detrimental invasive species is more complicated and would need input from an array of experts including biologists, economists and managers. The State Auditor would not have that range of expertise. Eradication is usually easiest before an invasive species has become established, but this requires location and identification of high-risk species very early on, as well as surefire methods of eradication. There are other species which may have become established but that offer such potential for damage that substantial resources should be devoted to their eradication. Fire ants on Oahu and Maui are examples. Then there are species that are widely established but where control is desirable at certain times and places. Mosquitoes are a prime example. Ideally we could determine the best approach depending on the species, its state of establishment, the methods available and the cost per area. Unfortunately, we don't have perfect knowledge of how to control or eradicate species until we try. We may also find that we have effective methods but that they cost too much or would be unacceptable to citizens. With limited funding to test methods, locate species or calculate costs, efforts are often a result of trial and error. This could be made more efficient but it would be considerably more expensive. HISC has a planning process in place. It isn't perfect but it appears effective at addressing major species and threats. A more effective system would require more stability of funding that would allow better risk analysis and contingency planning. A review of HISC might be more appropriate upon its ten year anniversary, assuming funding is stable or increases, as this would be looking at a mature organization, as opposed to one that is still growing.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 8:30 am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

LATE

HCR 76 – REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to offer comments and concerns on HCR 76, which would request an audit of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) by the State Auditor, specifically examining the funding strategy used to support interagency invasive species projects and research.

The University of is a member of the six-member interagency council, which is co-chaired by the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture. HISC was created the Legislature in 2003.

Our concerns lies both with the subject matter expertise of the office of the State Auditor to determine the efficacy of different invasive species funding strategies, and with the need for an audit of the process that HISC currently employs to select projects for support.

The current selection process is competitive, and open to the public and to legislative involvement. HISC staff release a call for proposals, including a statement of priorities identified by the council for that particular year, and provide a scoring rubric used to evaluate and rank the submitted proposals. A research review committee consisting of members of each agency represented on the HISC scores and reviews the proposals, and drafts a recommended priority list and budget for funding. This is reviewed by the full HISC at a public meeting, and HISC may choose to reject, amend or approve each proposed project.

HISC funding does not replace the targeted efforts of the relevant agencies, but it greatly expands the ability of the state to address the many invasive species problems in Hawai'i. The selection and funding process appears serve this goal, and to be open and transparent.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide our comments on HCR 76.